

HAPPENINGS IN AND ABOUT TOWN

DENY ASSISTANTS
TO CITY OFFICERSCouncil Committee Refuses to
Sanction Appointment of
Two More Employees.

Mayor Keller's wave of "economy" has begun to recede and like the proverbial worm, is turning upon his head with a vengeance. Upon the grounds that the expenditure is unnecessary the council committee of the whole last night refused to make a favorable report upon the ordinance providing for an assistant building commissioner to be paid \$100 a month and an assistant electrician at \$75 a month.

Although Mayor Keller himself, City Atty. Eli F. Seebert, Building Commissioner Perkins and City Electrician Dickey have pleaded with the council for the salary appropriation, the vote last night showed four councilmen for the ordinance and four against it, thereby killing the motion for a favorable report. Councilmen Thompson, Seibert, Hagerly and Miller voted against the motion, while Buchner, Goebel, Smogor and Lang supported the administration officials.

Against Electrician Assistant.

It appears that the council is in favor of giving the building commissioner an assistant, but as to the assistant for the city electrician nothing doing. The opposing councilmen are of the opinion that Electrician Dickey can do more work than he is doing and that if an assistant is necessary, a clerk could be hired for a small sum. The councilmen voted against the ordinance in the face of the assertion of the city electrician that the work of the department is increasing at the rate of 30 per cent annually, and during the present month the work is 50 per cent heavier than in the same period a year ago. Dickey also told the council that requests for applications six months old are in his office which have not been attended to because of the lack of time, that only the really necessary inspections are being made and that the clerical work of the office is months in arrears because of the lack of assistance.

Someone Taking Chance.

Viewed in some ways the action of the committee of the whole last night places the building and electrical departments and the board of works in a rather embarrassing position. An assistant electrician and an assistant building commissioner have been employed by the board of works and have been on duty for some time. Still no appropriation has been made for their salaries and it is the opinion of the councilman that someone, the board of works, is taking a long chance.

But, even so, City Atty. Seebert and the board of works asserts that it can hire and pay these assistants whether the council approves or not. There was a bit of a "joker" in the building code ordinance, the "joker" consisting of the section which says that assistants can be hired whenever deemed necessary. No salary is specified in the building ordinance and the city attorney asserts there is a statute whereby the board can pay whatever it deems necessary to such assistants when no salary is specified in the ordinance providing the offices. Thus the board of works has the power to pay the assistants whatever it desires.

Board to Make Fight.

The council still has a chance to thwart the board of works and that opportunity comes when the annual appropriations are made. If the council does not so desire, it need not appropriate money to the works board for these officers and then again the board will be up against a stone wall, unless it should manage to squeeze the salaries from the miscellaneous appropriation. It appears that the works board is anxious to avoid a fight with the council over the matter, but is determined to secure the assistants, asserting that if the work of the departments is to be done efficiently, men must be had to carry out its purposes.

The ordinance providing for the salaries for the two assistants was laid over until the next meeting of the committee of the whole which will be held early in May. In the meantime the board of works will of necessity be compelled to pay the present assistants out of some other fund than a regulation appropriation.

Through a motion made by Councilman Lang the ordinance providing for the purchase of an aerial fire truck was laid on the table until the next committee session. Lang announced himself as opposed to the purchase of the truck, holding it to be an unnecessary expenditure. He said that he made investigations which revealed that aerial trucks were of little value except in the metropolitan cities.

Sees Insurance Trust Hand.

"I also understand that the Indiana Insurance trust is working with the companies selling these aerial trucks," declared Councilman Lang. "There may be a possibility that somebody is getting a 'rake off.'"

City Clerk Roetiser was instructed to write to cities owning aerial trucks and secure some information as to the real value of the apparatus and as to whether the trucks are a practical success. There was a committee from the west side before the council with a petition asking that a better

street car service be provided on the Sample and Chapin st. lines. The committee was informed that the matter would be presented to the council at the session next Monday night. According to the committee, they are getting a half hour service on the two lines where they should have a seven and one-half minute service. It is expected that a fight will be started in the council when the matter is taken up by that body.

CLAIMS SHE IS
\$76,000 HEIRLakeville Woman Says She is
Niece of Late Chicago
Woman of Mystery.

Mrs. Merle Osborn of Lakeville, wife of William Osborn, a former general store merchant there, believes that she is the heir to the fortune of \$76,000 found in the home of Mrs. Taatge Schlutetter, Chicago, who was discovered dead there last week. Mrs. Osborn declares that she is a niece of the Chicago woman, after whose death the police found \$76,000 in money and papers, hidden about her home. The woman was a recluse and only the tradesmen with whom she dealt knew her. The Chicago police failed to locate any of her relatives and it is understood that the authorities are holding the fortune which was discovered in the recluse's home.

Mrs. Osborn's connection with the case was revealed through a letter for which she wrote to the Chicago office of the International News Service. She saw the story in the News-Times under the I. N. S. credit line last week and wrote the following letter to the news association:

Here Is Letter.

Lakeville, Ind., April 15, 1916. "The International News Service will you please inform the police to correspond with Mrs. Merle Osborn of Lakeville Ind and I will give all information concerning Mrs. Taatge Schlutetter whom they found dead in her home and Oblige."

The letter was not signed but a representative of The News-Times with Sheriff Charles Bailey and Deputy Sheriff Frank Nieszowski went to Lakeville Tuesday afternoon to interview Mrs. Osborn. Her letter was inferred to be meant that she could explain the mysterious death of Mrs. Schlutetter and would inform the authorities. Therefore the sheriff and his deputy visited the woman with the reporter.

Aunt Not Seen in Twenty-five Years. She explained that she had not seen Mrs. Schlutetter, who she asserts is her mother's sister, for a quarter of a century. About 30 years ago the woman visited Mrs. Osborn's mother and went on to Chicago. Mrs. Osborn says her aunt was always a mysterious person, refusing to tell anything about herself. After that visit her family lost track of Mrs. Schlutetter.

Since that time all of Mrs. Schlutetter's near relatives have died and Mrs. Osborn believes she is the sole heir to the fortune of \$76,000. She is in communication with the Chicago officials and expects to know more about the case within the next few days. Several months ago Mrs. Osborn's husband failed in business and according to friends if the legacy comes into the hands of Mrs. Osborn, it will be a case of the "silver lining behind the clouds."

LODGE NOTES

William Berch, chief of the South Bend club, No. 41, Tribe of Ben Hur, was last night elected chief of the Fraternal Congress of the Tribe of Ben Hur, which will convene May 4 and 5 at Kendallville, Ind. This is the first time any member of the local court has been elected to this office since the organization was instituted.

Water Potter and Emma Christ were elected delegates to the Fraternal Congress with a number of alternates. A social session with refreshments was held following the business meeting.

A special meeting of the building committee of the Crusade lodge, No. 14, Knights of Pythias, will be held tonight at the K. of P. hall when definite steps will be taken in regard to the building of the new K. of P. building on E. Wayne st. These arrangements were made last night at a regular meeting of the crusade held in their hall on S. Michigan st. Second degree work was conferred by the local degree staff during the business meeting.

That the outlook for the fourth annual minstrel show to be staged by Montauk tribe No. 426, Red Men, at Elks' temple, April 27, is to be the most successful ever held, was the conclusion arrived at last night at the meeting of the tribe held at Red Men hall.

Arrangements were made to attend the special meeting at Goshen of the Red Men, April 25. A special car will leave the Interurban station at 7 o'clock with the local members and Red Men band. The band men will wear their new uniforms for the first time at the meeting.

The local degree team will confer the additional degree on a large class of Goshen candidates.

During the meeting, Lewis Fortine presented the tribe with a new typical Indian peace pipe to be used in the chiefs' degree work. One application was received and balloted up-

Indiana Girl Won by Nobleman



PARONESS OTTO HIRSCH.

HAMMOND, Ind.—How war has broken down social barriers is told by Max Lovenger, who has just arrived home from Austria, where his step daughter, Miss Lillian Goldman, has married Baron Otto Hirsch, a wealthy and distinguished Hungarian nobleman.

on and one reinstatement was received.

George M. Poinsett garrison No. 91, Army and Navy union, met in regular session last night at M. W. A. hall when the proposition of putting a ball team in the Fraternal league was discussed and will be decided upon at the next meeting in two weeks. Other routine business was transacted and a smoker was held.

Forty-five per cent of American income is spent for food and 20 per cent for rent.

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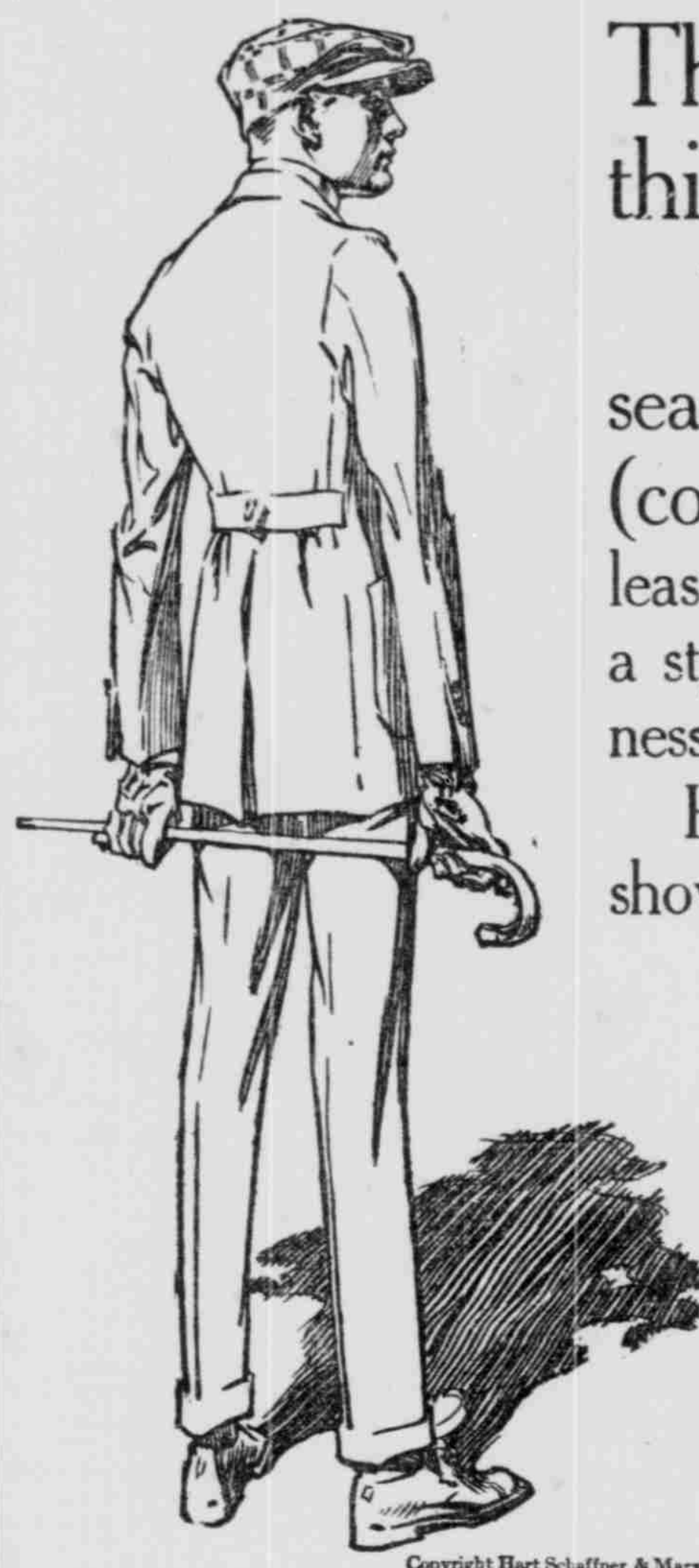
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